(b) and (c) It is proposed to new plant 20,000 hectares during 8th Plan period in the non-traditional areas. A project for world bank financing has been negotiated. Rubber Board has established field offices at a number of locations to render technical and financial assistance.

Export of Granite Blocks

3634. SHRI J.P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer of Unstarred Question 555 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating banning exports unfinished granite blocks and allow only value added items like cut and polished slabs etc; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Failure of MPEDS to promote export of marine products

3635. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MPEDA has failed in promoting exports of marine products;

(b) whether Government are aware that marine products exporters have formed a cartel to bring down the prices of prawn and shrimps paid to the farmers;

(c) whether Governemnt MPEDA had any plans to intervene in the market to stabilise the prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such thing has come to Government's notice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Import of Ginseng

3636. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plant called Ginseng has been imported in this country;

(b) if so, how and from which countries and what are the species imported; and

(c) how much foreign exchange has been incured during the last three years on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHIEED): (a) and (b) Ginseng plant is not imported. However, white Ginseng Root Powder, Red Ginseng Root Powder, solid extract with varying saporin contents (from 5% - 6% to 100%) and liquid extract are imported from Singapore, China, Korea, Indonesia, Afganistan, Bulgaria, Germany, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Itally, Spain and Ireland.

(c) During the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 for which data is available, Ginseng roots for a value of Rs. 61.82 lakhs and Rs. 39.48 lakhs respectively have been imported.

Export of engineering goods

3637. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of Export of Engineering goods during 1986-87 to 1991-92;

(b) whether there was an upward trend of their export and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the recent decision of the Commerce Minsitry to curtail the

coverage of I.P.R.S. by excluding consumption of foreign quality carbon steel and Stainless Steel from the purview of the scheme will adversely affect the Engineering Exports;

(d) what are the other items excluded from this scheme; and

(e) whether any representations have been received in this regard and what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The value of engineering goods exported during 1986-87 to 1991-92 was as follows:

Year	Export Value (Crores Rs.)
1986-87..	1043.00
1987-88..	1105.00
1988-89..	1589.00
1989-90..	2350.00
1990-91..	3250.00
1991-92..	4525.00

(Source: Engineering Export Promotion Council).

(b) It would be seen from the above that export of engineering goods during the above period maintained an unward trend. The growth in the exports was largely due to favourable demand factor in the international market and export promotion measures initiated by the Government from time to time.

(c) to (e) The Government have decided on 2.11.1992 to remove only forging quality carbon steel (except when the same is used in certain specified export products) and stainless steel from the purview of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) in respect of export shipment made on or after the 1st February, 1993. This measure is not likely to result in any major fall in the engineering exports during the current year. Representations have been received but Government do not find them justified; to consider any change.

Funding of EEPC by Government

3638. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been funding 60 per cent of the expenditure of the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EPC) towards export promotion efforts and 40 per cent is being met out of the industry's contribution;

(b) whether Government have now decided to stop funding the Council;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that government have decided to discontinue the IPAS (International Price Reimbursement Scheme) which helped the engineering export competition in the international market and also helped the Engineering Export Promotion Council indirectly; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Provision for financial assistance to EEPC by the Government has been regulated by the Code for providing grant-in-aid from the Market Development Fund (MDF) of the Ministry of Commerce. While the rate of assistance for developmental activities varies from activity to activity, rate of assistance for administrative activities is 60 per cent. Balance expenditure beyond the assistance is met by the Council itself.

(b) and (c) Government have decided to phase out assistance to all export promotion councils including the EEPC over a period of 5 to 7 years starting from 1.4.1992 with a view to making them self reliant.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.